

EXHIBIT 16
DATE 2/20/2013
HB 505
HTB 505

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

2/20/2013

Assisted Suicide is a very important issue for all Montanans safety since the majority of adults are senior citizens (over 50 years of age).

I retired from the Motion Picture Pension and Health Plans in Studio City, California, as the Chief Financial Officer. One reason my wife and I retired to Montana was the perception that Montana was senior citizen friendly, i.e., unlike Oregon that had adopted laws that allowed doctors and family members to assist people in killing themselves. Washington was out of the question, because while no killing laws had been adopted, we perceived them as having similar mind sets and sure enough, Washington adopted a similar law.

The laws in Washington and Oregon pertain to the "Terminally Ill". In my previous employment, one would need to be terminally ill to qualify for a pension, if they had not reached a specified age. From time to time doctors would deem someone terminally ill and they wound up living many years. If these persons had instead been applying for a lethal dose and used it, they would be dead before there time.

Now the push is on to bring the same kind of laws to Montana, some think it already legal for physicians to kill their terminally ill patients, as evidenced last week at the SB 220 hearing, where Senator Barrett and others testified as much.

Memo's have circulated to doctors all over Montana that physician assisted suicide is legal.

Unless, the law is strengthened, we could wind up with defacto physician assisted suicide. If a lie is told over and over it may become fact.

Doctors are held in high esteem by the public but they would significantly undermine the public trust in their profession by aiding in killing their patients.

Therefore, we need to close the door for good on physician assisted suicide. Vote YES on HB 505.

Sincerely,
Ted Friesen
Bigfork